



## Big student loan forgiveness plan announced by Biden



President Joe Biden greets Pennsylvania candidate for governor, state Attorney General Josh Shapiro, left, and Terese Casey, wife of Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., as he arrives at Wilkes-Barre Scranton International airport, Aug. 30, 2022, in Avoca, Pa.

Associated Press

## UNESCO Aruba preparing for Aruba to host the regional conference of MOWLAC



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# Red wave crashing? GOP momentum slips as fall sprint begins

From Front

By STEVE PEOPLES

AP National Politics Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The possibility of a great red wave still looms.

But as the 2022 midterm elections enter their final two-month sprint, leading Republicans concede that their party's advantage may be slipping even as Democrats confront their president's weak standing, deep voter pessimism and the weight of history this fall. The political landscape, while still in flux, follows a string of President Joe Biden's legislative victories on climate, health care and gun violence, just as Donald Trump's hand-picked candidates in electoral battlegrounds like Arizona, Georgia, Ohio and Pennsylvania struggle to broaden their appeal. But nothing has undermined the GOP's momentum more than the Supreme Court's stunning decision in June to end abortion protections, which triggered a swift backlash even in the reddest of red states.

"This midterm looks and feels significantly different than it did six months ago," said veteran Republican pollster Neil Newhouse. The abortion ruling "has energized some segments, especially the Democratic constituency, and it has thrown a wrench, at least to some extent, into the hopes of winning a ton of seats."

History suggests Republicans should dominate the November elections.

In the modern era, the party that holds the White House has lost congressional seats in virtually every first-term president's first midterm election. Ronald Reagan lost 26 House seats, Bill Clinton lost 52, Barack Obama 63 and Trump 40. Only George W. Bush's Republican Party enjoyed a modest eight-seat gain in his first midterm, coming after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Nine weeks before Election Day, leading operatives in both parties expect Republicans to pick up roughly 10



**Demonstrators protest about abortion outside the Supreme Court in Washington, June 24, 2022. Nothing has undermined the GOP's momentum more than the Supreme Court's stunning decision to end abortion protections, which triggered a swift backlash even in the reddest of red states over the summer.**

Associated Press

to 20 House seats, which would give the GOP a narrow majority in the chamber in November and break up Democrats' control of the federal government. But many Republicans are losing confidence in the high-stakes fight for the Senate majority and key governorships across the nation.

In Pennsylvania, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Josh Shapiro argues that his focus on public safety, education, the economy and freedom is driving his momentum but concedes that his opponent is also a major factor.

"Folks trust me to get it done," Shapiro, the state attorney general, told The Associated Press. "And in fairness, in part, it's because I'm running against the guy who's by far the most extreme and dangerous candidate in the nation."

In one of the nation's most important swing states, Republicans nominated Doug Mastriano as their nominee for governor, even after learning about his leading role in Trump's push to overturn the 2020 election.

The state senator and retired military officer helped organize the state's effort to submit fake presidential electors beholden to Trump and was seen outside the Capitol as pro-Trump demonstrators attacked police on Jan. 6, 2021. He has also alienated moderate voters and even some Republicans with divisive positions on several issues, including

abortion, which he opposes in all circumstances.

Mastriano's campaign didn't respond to an interview request for this story. Shapiro will launch his first TV ad of the fall campaign on Tuesday, casting Mastriano's fierce opposition to abortion rights and gay marriage as a threat to Pennsylvania's economy. The ad is the first spot in a \$16.9 million television advertising investment the campaign reserved for the nine weeks leading up to Election Day.

Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel acknowledged that the GOP must sharpen its message on abortion given the Democrats' apparent momentum.

"We can't allow them to control the narrative," McDaniel said in an interview. She emphasized Republican leaders' record of supporting exceptions for abortion in cases of rape, incest and the life of the mother, sidestepping questions about candidates like Mastriano, Georgia Senate nominee Herschel Walker and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who oppose such exceptions.

"I'm not going to speak about every candidate and where they're at," McDaniel said. "But the past four Republican presidents since Roe believe in the exception, and that is where I think a lot of the American people are, according to polling. But they also believe in limitations, and

Democrats have shown no inclination to have any limitation."

On the Republican Party's broader midterm outlook, McDaniel said top races were always likely to tighten, despite the conventional wisdom that a massive red wave was building. "Many of these states are battleground states," she said. "It's going to be tight." On paper, Republicans continue to enjoy tremendous advantages.

Beyond the weight of history, Democrats are saddled with Biden's low favorability ratings as roughly 7 in 10 voters believe the country is headed in the wrong direction. Democratic strategists acknowledge serious political headwinds as inflation and pessimism surge, but they note gas prices have ticked down, pandemic worries have waned and Biden has won major legislative victories on several key issues.

"Republicans haven't taken advantage of the bad political environment. And they punted on having any agenda or getting anything done," said Biden pollster John Anzalone, who was far less confident about the midterm outlook at the beginning of the summer.

"Historically, this should be a 30- or 40-seat win by Republicans," he added. "The entire Republican Party has been one big mistake for the past four or five months."

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell has blamed GOP "candidate quality" for why his party was more likely to win the House than the Senate. Florida Sen. Rick Scott, who leads the Senate GOP campaign arm, sees it differently.

"He and I clearly have a disagreement on this. I think we've got great candidates," Scott told the AP, citing opportunities to challenge Democrats in blue states like Colorado and Washington state. "I think we're doing fine."

Scott did acknowledge some uncertainty involving Trump's role in the coming weeks.

The former president helped his loyalists, most of whom embraced his conspiracy theories about the 2020 election, win primary elections across the country throughout the spring and summer. But it's unclear how Trump will help them, if at all, as the election moves into the fall.

"He's got a choice about what he wants to do. He clearly has some candidates that he wanted to get through the primaries and they did," Scott said. "He'll make his own decision on what he wants to do."

At the same time, a disproportionate number of women are registering to vote. And if recent voting patterns hold, that's good news for Democrats.

In at least seven states, women made up a higher share of newly registered voters following the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, according to an AP analysis of voter data from L2, a non-partisan data provider.

In the five weeks after the court eliminated the constitutional right to abortion, women made up 64% of new Kansas registrations. Then, on Aug. 2, Kansas voters overwhelmingly rejected a ballot measure that would have let state lawmakers impose new restrictions on abortions.

Trump-backed Republicans who oppose abortion rights are fighting for momentum in several swing states.

A leading Republican Senate super PAC recently canceled television ad reservations in Arizona, where Blake Masters is running, while committing \$28 million to help Trump loyalist JD Vance in Ohio, a state Trump carried by 8 points in the last election. In Pennsylvania, there are concerns that Mastriano is dragging down the rest of the Republican ticket, while Trump-endorsed GOP Senate nominee Mehmet Oz is struggling with residency questions. And in Georgia, Walker is facing difficult questions about his past and his opposition to abortion in all cases. □



# Judge grants Trump bid for special master in document search

By ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — In a legal victory for former President Donald Trump, a federal judge on Monday granted his request for a special master to review documents seized by the FBI from his Florida home and also temporarily halted the Justice Department's own use of the records for investigative purposes.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon authorizes an outside legal expert to review the records taken during the Aug. 8 search and to weed out from the rest of the investigation any that might be protected by claims of attorney-client privilege or executive privilege. Some of those records may ultimately be returned to Trump, but the judge put off a ruling on that question.

The order came despite the strenuous objections of the Justice Department, which said a special master was not necessary in part because officials had already completed their review of potentially privileged documents. The department said it was reviewing the decision.

The order almost certainly slows the pace of the department's investigation into the presence of top-secret information at Mar-a-Lago, particularly given the judge's directive that the



Former President Donald Trump speaks during a rally at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Wilkes-Barre Township, Pa., Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022.

Justice Department may not for the moment use any of the seized materials as part of its investigation into the storage of government secrets at the Florida property. That injunction is in place until the yet-to-be-named special master completes his or her work, "or further court order."

"The Court is mindful that restraints on criminal prosecutions are disfavored, but finds that these unprecedented circumstances call for a brief pause to allow for neutral, third-party review to ensure a just process with adequate safeguards," Cannon, a Trump appointee, wrote in her 24-page order.

Even so, it is not clear that

the decision will have a significant effect on long-term investigative or charging decisions or the ultimate outcome of the probe. A separate assessment by the U.S. intelligence community of the risk posed by the apparent mishandling of classified records will continue under the judge's order.

"While this is a victory for the former President, it is by no means an overwhelming win for him," David Weinstein, a Florida criminal defense lawyer and former Justice Department prosecutor, said in an email. "While it is a setback for the government, it is also not a devastating loss for them."

Justice Department

spokesman Anthony Coley said Monday that "the United States is examining the opinion and will consider appropriate next steps in the ongoing litigation." A lawyer for Trump did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The department and Trump's lawyers are to submit by Friday a list of proposed special master candidates.

Trump's lawyers had argued that a special master — usually an outside lawyer or former judge — was necessary to ensure an independent review of records taken during the search and so that any personal information or documents could be filtered out and

returned to Trump.

In this case, the seized records "include medical documents, correspondence related to taxes, and accounting information," according to the judge's order.

The judge said it was too soon to know whether Trump will be entitled to the return of any of the records, but "for now, the circumstances surrounding the seizure in this case and the associated need for adequate procedural safeguards are sufficiently compelling to at least get Plaintiff past the courthouse doors."

Though Cannon did not order the Justice Department to immediately return any of the seized documents to Trump, she said she found persuasive his lawyers' arguments that he faced potentially "irreparable injury" by being denied access to records that might be of significant personal interest to him.

She said the investigative process had, so far, been "closed off" to him.

"As a function of Plaintiff's former position as President of the United States, the stigma associated with the subject seizure is in a league of its own," Cannon wrote. "A future indictment, based to any degree on property that ought to be returned, would result in reputational harm of a decidedly different order of magnitude." □

## 2nd web-hosting provider drops harassment site Kiwi Farms

By The Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Web-hosting provider DDoS-Guard said Monday that it had stopped providing its services to Kiwi Farms, becoming the second provider in two days to abandon the stalking and harassment site and leaving it inaccessible on the public internet.

DDoS-Guard said it doesn't have to decide whether sites violate laws, and it normally only restricts access to a site in cases such as receiving a court order

to do so. The company said it acted this time, however, after receiving "multiple" complaints.

"Having analyzed the content of the site, we decided on the termination of DDoS protection services" for a version of the Kiwi Farms site with a Russian .ru domain name, the company said. The .ru site had been running intermittently after Cloudflare cut off services. Kiwi Farms was previously cut off from services by Cloudflare. Both firms acted after Canadian transgen-

der Twitch streamer Clara Sorrenti launched an online campaign against the site. Cloudflare CEO Matthew Prince said he was troubled by the decision, but that escalating targeted threats on the site created an "immediate threat to human life" that his company had never seen.

The site was created and operated by Joshua Conner Moon, 29, and became a forum for harassment of social media figures, especially transgender people, feminists and people of



Lava lamps are seen through a lobby window at the headquarters of Cloudflare in San Francisco, Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2022.

Associated Press

color. Sorrenti, who goes by "Kef-fals" online, fled her home in Canada last month, only to have online stalkers find her in Northern Ireland and step up their harassment.

On Monday, Sorrenti tweeted that she would have a

final update on the campaign against Kiwi Farms. "We won," she said.

It was unclear whether Wiki Farms would try to find another service provider or whether its users might begin gathering on a new forum. □



# 1 dead, 9 missing after floatplane crashes in Puget Sound

By **MARTHA BELLISLE**

**Associated Press**

**RENTON, Wash. (AP)** — The U.S. Coast Guard was continuing to search Monday for nine people, including a child, who were missing after a floatplane crashed in the waters of Puget Sound northwest of Seattle.

The body of a 10th person was recovered by a good Samaritan on Sunday after the crash was reported at 3:11 p.m., Coast Guard spokesperson William Colclough said Monday.

The Northwest Seaplanes flight left Friday Harbor, a popular tourist destination in the San Juan Islands, and was headed to Renton Municipal Airport, the company's base, Colclough said.

The plane went down in Mutiny Bay off Whidbey Island, roughly 30 miles (50 kilometers) northwest of downtown Seattle and about halfway between Friday Harbor and Renton, a suburb south of Seattle.

The National Transportation Safety Board said Monday that they're sending a team of seven to investigate the crash of the DHC-3 Turbine Otter.

The cause of the crash is unknown, authorities said.

Jon Gabelein of South Whidbey Fire/EMS told KOMO witnesses on the shore reported seeing the plane "nose dive into the



**A U.S. Coast Guard boat and Kitsap, Wash., County Sheriff boat search the area, Monday, Sept. 5, 2022, near Freeland, Wash., on Whidbey Island north of Seattle where a chartered floatplane crashed the day before.**

**Associated Press**

water." Four Coast Guard vessels, a rescue helicopter and an aircraft were involved in the extensive search, along with nearby rescue and law enforcement agencies.

The Coast Guard said crews searched throughout the night, "but no additional individuals were recovered and no debris spotted. Coast Guard aircraft are beginning a search this morning. This remains an active search."

Northwest Seaplanes is a family owned business

founded by Clyde Carlson, according to the company's website. It has 24-years of "accident and incident free flying," the website said. The company's business office next to the seaplane dock at the Renton Municipal Airport remained closed behind fencing on Monday. The only visible activity was two people hugging near the front door. The only floatplane at the dock appeared to be a small private Cessna.

A woman who answered the phone early Monday

said they're waiting to learn more and are devastated by the crash.

"It's a small crew. Everyone's close," said the woman, who would only give her first name, Michelle. She declined to say more. The Northwest Seaplanes website says its sister company Friday Harbor Seaplanes operates daily flights to and from their Renton base and the San Juan Islands, a scenic archipelago northwest of Seattle that draws tourists from around the world.

Floatplanes, which have pontoons allowing them to land on water, are a common sight around Puget Sound, an inlet of the Pacific Ocean. There are multiple, daily flights between the Seattle area and the San Juan Islands.

These aircraft, which also fly between Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia, frequently travel over Seattle and land on Lake Washington and on Lake Union, not far from the city's iconic Space Needle.

The airport where the flight was headed Sunday is at the southern tip of Lake Washington, less than 5 miles (8 kilometers) from Seattle. It's located next to a Boeing plant and is best known for where new 737s first hit the sky.

In July, 2020, a De Havilland Beaver operated by Brooke's Seaplanes was on a scenic flight in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, with five passengers and a pilot when it collided with a Cessna 206. Eight people were killed.

In 2019, a midair crash in Alaska between two sight-seeing planes killed six people. The Ketchikan-based floatplanes were carrying passengers from the same cruise ship, the Royal Princess, and were returning from tours of Misty Fjords National Monument. □



**Bittings Avenue is seen partially underwater as many homes along the road were affected Sunday, Sept. 4, 2022, in Summerville, Ga.**

**Associated Press**

**SUMMERVILLE, Ga. (AP)** — Thunderstorms and heavy rain pounded parts of northwest Georgia on Sunday, sparking flash flooding

in some areas. Local news reports showed roads under water and homeowners struggling to keep water out.

## Emergency declared as flash flooding hits northwest Georgia

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp declared a state of emergency Sunday afternoon in Chattooga and Floyd Counties, directing all state resources to help with "preparation, response and recovery activities." The National Weather Service said rainfall of up to one inch per hour was causing creeks, streams, roadways and urban areas to experience unusually high levels of water. Up to 12 inches of rain was estimated to have fallen in the area, according to Kemp's executive order.

"This is an extremely dangerous and life-threatening

situation. Do not attempt to travel unless you are fleeing an area subject to flooding or under an evacuation order," the service said.

The service declared a "flash flood emergency" for Summerville, Lyerly and James H. Floyd State Park in Chattooga County. Floyd County — just to the south — was also under a flash flood warning.

At 3:10 p.m., the service advised locals to avoid non-emergency travel as another round of emergency rainfall entered the area.

The city of Summerville advised residents who use the

city's water utility services to boil water prior to drinking, cooking or preparing baby food due to flash flooding at the Raccoon Creek Filter plant.

"Water should be boiled for at least one minute after reaching a rolling boil.

Citizens should continue to boil their water until they are notified by their drinking water utility that the water system has been restored to full operation, and that the microbiological quality of the water in the distribution system is safe for human consumption," the city said on its website. □



# China accuses Washington of cyberspying on university

By JOE McDONALD

Associated Press

**BEIJING (AP)** — China on Monday accused Washington of breaking into computers at a university that U.S. officials say does military research, adding to complaints by both governments of rampant online spying against each other.

Northwestern Polytechnical University reported computer break-ins in June, the National Computer Virus Emergency Response Center announced. It said the center, working with a commercial security provider, Qihoo 360 Technology Co., traced the attacks to the National Security Agency but didn't say how that was done.

China and the United States are, along with Russia, regarded as global leaders in cyberwarfare research.

China accuses the United States of spying on universities, energy and internet companies and other targets. Washington accuses Beijing of stealing commercial secrets and has announced criminal charges against Chinese military officers.



In this image taken from video footage run by China's CCTV, Northwestern Polytechnical University is seen in Xi'an, in northwestern China's Shaanxi Province on Monday, Sept. 5, 2022.

Associated Press

The U.S. actions "seriously endanger China's national security," said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning. She also accused Washington of eavesdropping on Chinese mobile phones and stealing text messages.

"China strongly condemns it," Mao said. "The United States should immediately stop using its advantages to steal secrets and attack other countries."

The American Embassy in Beijing didn't immediately

respond to a request for comment.

Security experts say the ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, and the Ministry of State Security also sponsor hackers outside the government.

Northwestern Polytechnical University, in the western city of Xi'an, is on a U.S. government "entity list" that limits its access to American technology. Washington says the university helps the PLA develop aerial and

underwater drones and missile technology.

Monday's announcement accused the United States of taking information about the university's network management and other "core technologies." It said Chinese analysts found 41 "network attack" tools that it said were traced to the NSA.

Last year, a Chinese man, Shuren Qin, was sentenced to two years in prison by a federal court in Boston after he pleaded guilty

to exporting underwater and marine technology to Northwestern Polytechnical University without required licenses.

The NSA, part of the Department of Defense, is responsible for "signals intelligence," or obtaining communications and other data.

The Computer Virus Emergency Response Center, set up in 1996 by the police department of the eastern city of Tianjin, describes itself as the Chinese agency responsible for inspection and testing of anti-computer virus products.

A report by Qihoo 360 in 2020 said hacking tools used in attacks on Chinese companies and government agencies in 2008-19 were traced to the Central Intelligence Agency by comparing them with code in CIA tools disclosed by the Wikileaks group.

The hackers targeted a "zero day," or previously unreported, vulnerability in the school's security, the statement said. It said the break-ins were conducted from servers in 17 countries including Japan, South Korea, Sweden, Poland, Ukraine and Colombia. □

# U.S. B-52 bombers fly over Middle East amid tensions with Iran

By ISABEL DEBRE

Associated Press

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — The United States military said Monday it flew a pair of nuclear-capable B-52 long-distance bombers over the Middle East in a show of force, the latest such mission in the region as tensions remain high between Washington and Tehran.

The bombers took off from the Royal Air Force base at Fairford, England, and flew over the eastern Mediterranean, the Arabian Peninsula and the Red Sea on Sunday in training missions together with Kuwaiti and Saudi warplanes, before departing the region.

"Threats to the U.S. and our partners will not go unanswered," Lt. Gen. Alexis Grynkeiwich, the top U.S. Air

Force officer in the Middle East said in a statement. "Missions like this ... showcase our ability to combine forces to deter and, if necessary, defeat our adversaries." Although the U.S. military's Central Command did not mention Iran, Washington has frequently dispatched B-52 bombers to the region as hostilities simmered between the U.S. and Iran. The last such fly-over was in June.

Iran's regional foe, Israel, also joined in the multinational mission. Though unacknowledged by the U.S., three Israeli F-16 fighter jets accompanied the American bombers "through Israel's skies on their way to the (Persian) Gulf," the Israeli military said, describing the country's cooperation with the U.S. military as key to

"maintaining aerial security in Israel and the Middle East."

Central Command was expanded last year to include Israel, a move seen to encourage regional cooperation against Iran under former President Donald Trump.

Trump's decision four years ago to withdraw the U.S. from Tehran's landmark nuclear deal with world powers sparked a series of escalating incidents in the region.

Even as diplomats now wrangle over a possible revival of the nuclear accord, Iran's navy seized two American sea drones in the Red Sea last week.

That capture came just days after the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard towed another sea

drone before releasing it as an American warship trailed it. The U.S. Navy has been deploying ultra-endurance aerial surveillance drones to monitor threats in the crucial waterways,

which have witnessed repeated maritime attacks. Tensions also remain high after recent confrontations between U.S. forces and Iranian-backed militias in the region. □



This photo released by the U.S. Air Force shows a B-52H Stratofortress assigned to the 5th Bomb Wing, Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, flying over the Middle East on Sunday, Sept. 4, 2022.

Associated Press



# Mexico's Supreme Court debates mandatory pretrial detention

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Mexico's Supreme Court held a first day of debate Monday on the country's policy of mandatory pretrial detention as President Andrés Manuel López Obrador accused the justices of violating the separation of powers. Suspects accused of the most violent crimes seldom get released on bail anywhere in the world. But in Mexico, López Obrador has expanded the list of charges that require a suspect to be detained pending trial to 16, including some nonviolent crimes. Some justices argue the policy violates international treaties barring pretrial detention in all but "exceptional" cases to prevent suspects from fleeing justice. But López Obrador says that's up to Congress to decide.

"If they cancel this article, it is an open invasion of the powers of the legislative branch, and it would violate the balance and separation of powers," López Obrador said Monday before the court session opened. "I don't think they will dare to, because



**Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador speaks during his State of the Nation address at the National Palace in Mexico City, Sept. 1, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

it is a complete violation of the Constitution."

Supreme Court Justice Luis Maria Aguilar argued that pretrial detention amounted to a "sentence carried out beforehand," noting some charges carried sentences of just a few months,

far less than the amount of time most people spend awaiting trial.

But other judges disagreed, saying the court didn't have the authority to declare an article of the constitution unconstitutional based on the supremacy

of international treaties.

The court then adjourned until Tuesday, when the rest of the 11 justices are expected to present arguments.

The proceedings Monday made it appear likely there aren't enough votes to de-

clare the practice unconstitutional. But the court must still hear a more limited appeal on the same grounds that would benefit only the plaintiffs in a particular case.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Arturo Zaldívar wrote in his Twitter account Monday that the court "is starting debate on one of the most transcendent topics for the constitutional system and people's human rights. We will do it with independence and full responsibility."

Only about two of every 10 people accused of a crime in Mexico are ever found guilty. That means that of the estimated 92,000 suspects held pending trial often in the same cells with hardened criminals around 75,000 won't be convicted despite sometimes spending years locked up in Mexico's crowded, dangerous prisons.

Trials in Mexico can drag on for a surprisingly long time. Two men were recently released with ankle monitors after spending 17 years in prison while on trial for murder. □



**Foreign minister of Sri Lanka Ali Sabry gestures as he addresses media in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Monday, Sept. 5, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

**By KRISHAN FRANCIS**

**Associated Press**

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)**

— Sri Lanka will not accept any international investigation imposed by the U.N. Human Rights Council into alleged rights abuses during the country's long civil war, an official said Monday. Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Sabry said the government is willing to engage with the international

community in seeking closure for human rights issues, but that any solution should conform with the country's Constitution.

"Any external mechanism, external evidence gathering mechanism, charging citizens outside the country, getting hybrid judges to come and hear the cases, all these are against the Constitution. So we can't agree to that," he said.

## Sri Lanka refuses international human rights investigation

The statement is a retraction of President Ranil Wickremesinghe's earlier stance when he was prime minister. In 2015 he co-sponsored a resolution agreeing to a joint investigation of alleged abuses with participation by Commonwealth and other foreign judges, defense lawyers, authorized prosecutors and investigators.

Wickremesinghe is currently supported in Parliament by lawmakers loyal to his predecessor, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who was a defense official during the war and holds hard-line views on the U.N.'s role on Sri Lanka.

The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights is scheduled to publish an update on Sri Lanka's progress in accountability for the alleged abuses at

upcoming Human Rights Council meetings starting Sept. 12 in Geneva, Switzerland. The sessions continue until Oct. 7.

In March last year, the council adopted a resolution strengthening the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights to collect, analyze and preserve information and develop possible strategies for future accountability for violations of human rights in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka fought a civil war with now-defeated Tamil Tiger rebels, who fought for an independent state for the country's ethnic minority Tamils. Government soldiers crushed the rebels in 2009.

Both government troops and the rebels were accused of serious human

rights violations. The government was accused of bombing hospitals and places where displaced Tamil civilians had taken temporary shelter, and controlling supplies of medicine and food as a weapon of war. The government has denied the allegations. The rebels were accused of recruiting child soldiers, using civilians as human shields and killing those trying to flee their control.

Sri Lanka is presently going through its worst economic crisis in its history and is seeking international assistance.

It has defaulted on repayment of foreign loans and is suffering acute shortages of fuel, medicines and some foods because it does not have foreign currency to pay for imports. □



## UNESCO Aruba preparing for Aruba to host the regional conference of MOWLAC

**ORANJESTAD – Minister of Culture, Xiomara Maduro, recently held a meeting with Mrs. Marushka Tromp and Mr. Peter Scholing from the National Committee of UNESCO in Aruba, in order to receive more information regarding the ongoing preparations for Aruba to host the regional conference of MOWLAC, in November 2022.**

Since 1992, UNESCO promotes and coordinates the program Memory of the World (MOW), which preserves and provides access to documents and digital heritage with great relevance for every person in the world. The goal of the program is to avoid that, among others, war, social instability, lack of resources, sabotage, illegal com-

merce and destruction cause the disappearance of historical documents from humanity's collective memory. For the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, this program is guided by a committee under the name of MOWLAC.

In Aruba, work is also being carried out at the National Library of Aruba as well as the National Archive Aruba, in order to preserve the collective memory of our country. We can be proud of the digitalized collection of the National Library of Aruba, which recently, thanks to the valuable contribution of the National Archive Aruba and the Department of Legislation, now also counts with digitalized information regarding the Colonial History of



Aruba. This is important work done to preserve our country's history, which also brought positive attention for our country in the MOWLAC program.

Minister Maduro thanks the

National Committee of Aruba for all the work being done in order that Aruba can be a worthy host for the MOWLAC conference next November. More information regarding MOWLAC can be accessed via

<http://mowlac.org/en/about-mowlac/>.

The digital collection of the Colonial History of Aruba can be accessed through <https://archive.org/details/BNA-DIG-PB-1816-1851>. □

## Plenipotentiary minister present at commemoration at Nationala Indië-monument 1945-1962

**DEN HAAG – Alternate Plenipotentiary Minister of Aruba in the Netherlands, Mr. Ady Thijsen, by invitation of Stichting Indië Monument, was present at the national commemoration at Roermond, the Netherlands.**

During the ceremony at the Nationaal Indië-monument 1945-1962 all military personnel who lost their lives between 1945 and 1962 in Nederlands Indië, currently



Indonesia, are remembered. This is a day where all military personnel who lost their lives during peace missions of the United Nations are remembered.

The national commemoration was attended by the prime minister of the Netherlands, Mark Rutte; vice-president of Tweede Kamer (Dutch Congress), Martin Bosma; president of Eerste Kamer (Dutch Senate), Jan Anthonie Bruin; King's Commissioner for Limburg, Emile Roemer, as well as other

dignitaries.

Premier Rutte gave a speech and laid a wreath in the name of the Council of Ministers at the monument.

Afterwards, various military and civic representatives laid wreaths on the monument. This was followed by a parade by the guests, military and civil authorities, and visitors. □

Images are courtesy of Arubahuis.





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## Some of Peru's Best Flavors are Firing up Palm Beach, Thanks to New Pop-Up Restaurant Blu Bar



**PALM BEACH, ARUBA – Radisson Blu Aruba, located in Palm Beach, celebrated the soft opening of its new Peruvian pop-up restaurant last week. The unique and stylish Blu Bar: A Peruvian-inspired restaurant that offers everything that you love about Peruvian fusion cuisine, but with a modern twist.**

Diners can expect to find many seafood-centric dishes including popular Peruvian eats such as Ceviches and Tiraditos. Some of the highlights from the dinner menu include mouthwatering dishes such as the team's favorite: cowboy pork glazed with blackberries jam served with 'fufu', local fish on a sugar snap peas puree, NY strip with Peruvian chimichurri, and 8 hours



slow-cooked beef brisket; all dishes enhanced by a modern twist on flavors and presentation. The Executive chef and his team are clearly dedicated to making you come back presenting you tasty appetizers or full entrée offerings.

As for libations, the beverage team built an equal innovative menu with a detailed selection of stunning wines and signature cocktails to pair with each dish.

### The next hot spot in Palm Beach

The pop-up is the only spot for Peruvian dining in Palm Beach and offers both indoor dining with panoramic floor to ceiling windows, and outdoor seating with a picturesque view of the resort's luxurious pool and lush gardens. The upscale atmosphere, rich in original architectural details absolute perfect location for dining with loved ones, clients, and business associates. At night, the restaurant's chic bar is a lively place to gather with friends for cocktails and cozy vibes.

One thing must be said: the hotel's staff makes a difference. Real smiles, real at-

tention and real enthusiasm is what you encounter. Here we are experiencing something new, and a new place has new vibes, for you to discover. Radisson Blu Aruba invites locals and visitors alike to enjoy a Peruvian culinary experience they will never forget. Located in the heart of Radisson Blu Aruba, Blu Bar is open daily from 5PM to 11PM.

### Unwind with local prices and a singing angel

Blu Bar offers a nice selection of wines and each Wednesday you will only pay in Florins. The Dollar to Florin deals – 44% discount – on wine bottles start from 5PM every Wednesday. Now it gets even better because from 7PM you can enjoy the amazing voice of local singer Amy Sorinio. The all-round performer has a unique voice and a great energy. She easily connects with her public and enchants you with jazz, easy listening, pop, soul, Latin... name a style and she can do it. Her passion led her travelling all around the world and you will feel her experience and genuine love for music.

Reservations are not required, and walk-ins are welcome. Go and find out why Blu Bar is the next hotspot for a bite, a drink or more. ☐

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# Elliott Loonstra PLY was nominated by ARTBO (Aruba Taekwondo Bond) and bestowed two Para-Athlete of the year awards At the 2021 'Premio Excelencia den Deporte' in Aruba

The Awards ceremony for 2019 and 2020 did not take place due to the Covid pandemic that affected the whole world. However, the 2021 'Premio Excelencia den Deporte' took place, and they awarded athletes the awards from the previous years, not including 2020 due to a lack of sports activities. These awards were both for able-bodied and para-athletes.

The award for 2019 was presented to Elliott Loonstra PLY by the Prime Minister of Aruba, Evelyne Wever-Croes, while the 2021 award was given to Loonstra PLY by the secretary of the Aruba Paralympic Committee, Mrs. Shardea Croes. Of the 6 athletes nominated by ARTBO, Elliott Loonstra PLY was the only one to receive awards at this prestigious event. This ceremony marks the third consecutive year (2018, 2019, 2021) that Elliott Loonstra PLY has been the Para-Athlete of the Year in Aruba. A very proud moment for Elliott Loonstra and his family, along with his coach Luciano Mazzeo and the Paralympic Committee.

A week later Elliott Loonstra PLY was invited to be a panelist in the Lidera Student Athlete Conference to help motivate and teach the young students of Aruba as to what it takes to become an elite level athlete. The event took place on August 26th of this year and 400+ student athletes attended. Along with the other panelists, Elliott Loonstra PLY explained his thoughts and experience in the world of sporting and how it has affected his life and view on sports.

The event was also attended by former NFL star and current motivational speaker Trent Shelton. It was a great success and Elliott Loonstra PLY was very honored to have been a



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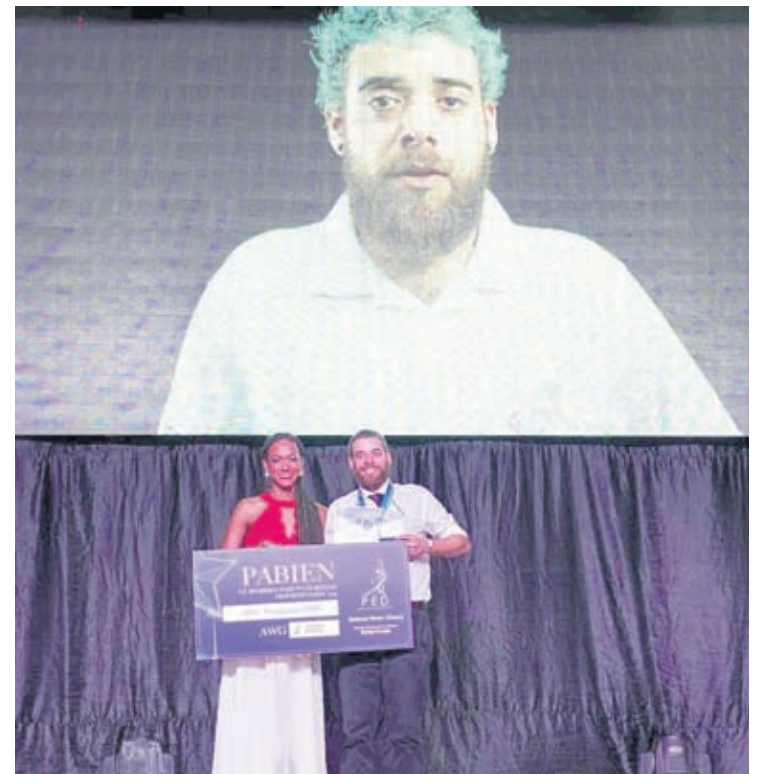
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Travellers' Choice 2020

part of it. He looks forward to future events in which he can help motivate more students in sports, while also educating them about the Paralympic movement that is happening around the world.

Currently Loonstra PLY and his coach Luciano Mazzeo are in route to the 2022 Paris Grand Prix Series of Para-Taekwondo. The fights will take place on September 5th, 2022 and we wish them great success during his fights. □



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## Wiki Loves Monuments Aruba is back

**It's september and it's monuments month! After a successful Wiki Loves Monuments competition in 2020. Monumentsfund Aruba is once again organizing Wiki Loves Monuments, world's largest photography competition to document monuments around the world.**

Wiki Loves Monuments is an international competition organized by Wikimedia. Wikimedia is the organization behind Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia and a global collaboration supported by volunteers.

The competition initiated in 2010 in the Netherlands, after expanding to Europe and worldwide, collecting information about more than 1.5 million monuments from 76 countries and more than 2 million photographs uploaded by more than 600 000 participants.

The competition consists of a national and an international competition; around 40 countries around the world organizes a national competition each year with their own rules and events but with one thing in common; monuments.

Each national competi-

tion will nominate their winners to participate in the international competition. These photographs will be judged by an international jury who will choose the best images. In 2021 Aruba did not organize WLM but was part of the international jury.

Cultural heritage is an important part of the knowledge Wikipedia collects and disseminates. Everybody can contribute with images as well as write articles. An image is worth a thousand words, in every language at once and local enthusiasts can (re)discover the cultural, historical, or scientific significance of their neighborhood.

This year Monuments Fund will organize the national competition for Aruba for the fifth time.

The competition will be between September 1 and 30.

### How to participate

Step 1: Find a monument on the Monuments List Aruba on Wikimedia. Note the ID number from the monuments you would like to upload a photo from.

Step 2: Make photos of the monument. Make as many

and as good photos as you can, try different angles. Even if the photo doesn't win you a prize, it will contribute to Wikipedia with more information about Aruban Heritage!

Step 3: Write down what you photographed. Record the site's name, the monument ID, description, and date of photo.

Step 4: Don't have a Wikimedia Commons account yet? Create one here it

takes just a few minutes! Make sure that your email address is confirmed. Step 5: Upload your photos to Wikimedia Commons between 1 and 30 September.

### Rules

There are a few rules for photos to participate in the international contest. These rules are also adopted as rules for participation on a national level.

Every submission should be: Self taken and self-uploaded; Uploaded in September 2022; Freely licensed; Contain an identified monument;

For more information Commons:Wiki Loves Monuments 2022 in Aruba - Wikimedia Commons or follow us on Facebook: Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba. □



**EAGLE BEACH - Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles**

**are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador" and 36+ years "Emerald Ambassador".**

ATA representative Kimberley Richardson wrote that they had the delight to honor a young boy named Benjamin Kim who

## Honoring of loyal visitors at Marriot's Aruba Surf Club

has been visiting Aruba with his parents from a very young age. "It is incredibly joyful to look at how families all come together, and bring along their children and some even grandchildren, so they can also see why their families fell in love with Aruba and continue wanting to come back to the island after so many years," said Ms. Richardson.

The symbolic Distinguished Visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.



This lovely young boy stated that he loves visiting the island very much, especially for its nice white sandy beaches and turquoise waters, the tasty milkshakes he gets to enjoy by the pool, and most importantly, the quality time he gets to spend with his family and friends.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Marriott's Aruba Surf Club presented the certificate to the honoree, handed over some presents, and also expressed thanks to his parents for bringing Benjamin along with them to Aruba since he was a baby for so many consecutive years. □



## Fire at local recycling center: Experiences of a scary day

It was like reliving a trauma. That's how Jessica Franken, executive at La Cabana, said about the fire that broke at Daltra, a recycling center, at the end of August. Jessica was not near Barcadera, where the fire took place, but her sibling was, at the Arugas offices. And for Jessica, the idea of gas and fire brought back traumatic memories that were simply too much.

She found herself calling 911 and did not give up until they answered the phone. "The phone rang about eleven times and when they finally answered, I said that they must evacuate everyone."

Franken was thinking about her sibling locked up in their office at Arugas – the gas company, right next to Daltra – also reliving the tragedy of 1989. Back then, a tragedy of gas explosion at La Cabana took the life of one of her siblings' colleagues as well as others, at the place where Jessica was working.

Since that day, Franken is nervous about gas and its dangers.

The other moment that is seared in her memory is the explosion at Montaña Apartments, where a 20 gallon gas tank exploded leaving victims, including dead, behind.

With her sibling in the offices of Arugas, without being able to leave despite the fire at the neighboring lot, Jessica experienced crippling fear that something more serious could happen. She was so glad that after two hours of calling 911, her sibling called her to say that police came knocking on the door and ordered everyone to evacuate the premises.

Sandra Besaril, on the other hand, was calm at APEX, which is also close to Daltra in Barcadera. She didn't realize nothing about the fire until her colleagues came to tell everyone in the office. "I went outside to the parking lot when I noticed the fire was growing fast. It



was then I realized that it was serious."

Besaril and her colleagues did not evacuate immediately. "We were worried about what was happening. For our job but also the neighborhood, but afterwards, I went home."

And Sandra felt that she could go home peacefully thanks to her own APEX colleagues, who did everything possible to make the area safe and then helped the Fire Department to fight the fire.

Our reporter understood that all equipment available was used to dominate the fire, something that worked. "More than anything I'm proud of my colleagues and to be part of this team", Besaril explained.

Even though initially Jessica Franken had her thoughts about the fact that management of Arugas did not let the workers leave as soon as the fire grew, she is relieved that everything ended well. Even more, she was glad that after her sibling wrote a letter with suggestions, this was positively accepted by management.

The fire at the end of August scared a lot of people on Aruba. Emotions ran high because even though we are used to having fires at the dump in Parkietenbos, one in the area of Freezone, so close to other vital industries is a reality that hits hard. Everyone was aware of the danger should the fire expand.

And even though Rino Hermans – disaster management adviser, from Bureau Rampen Bestrijding Aruba (BRA) – was ready to tackle the crisis, "this was the first time in my career that I was scared". And for Hermans to admit this is unusual, for a person who doesn't allow emotions to dominate.

The reason for this was the combination of smoke concentration, the temperature of 38 degrees, and the fact that there was no wind. "At one point the wind fell to zero knots." And when they received notification that the wind was coming back, but would bring the smoke in the direction of the neighborhood of Simeon Antonio, he decided to act. "We don't know how many people have Covid-lungs and other breathing problems. Seeing the

smoke concentration, I made the decision to call for evacuation." Hermans was thankful that the association of general practitioners, HAVA, on their own asked everyone in the area to leave their homes. "The population also responded."

A call for evacuation is not done carelessly, because people are asked to leave their homes and that means that the Fire Department must go into action to secure the entire neighborhood. On that Tuesday, a total of 48 police officers had to focus their work on the neighborhood to guarantee safety.

Despite the seriousness of the situation, Hermans says that neither doctors nor the local hospital reported cases of people who suffered from breathing problems. But in the group of people who were working hard to fight the fire, there was moments that action was needed, in some cases, to prevent problems. "It was according to our rehabilitation procedures, to give oxygen to the firemen who were working." There is a rehabilitation procedure, together with IMSAN (Medi-

cal Institute San Nicolas) and ambulance personnel. "We had a trailer for that process." That means that they had to keep an eye of who is fighting the fire, for how long, and they would call them back to the trailer to rest, cool their bodies, hydrate and for those who needed it, receive oxygen. Everyone had to rest 40 minutes in order to continue, this way, they could work for 24 hours fighting the fire.

And it was a challenge, because the temperature 100 meters away from the fire reached 120 degrees Celsius, on a very hot day without wind. "It wasn't until the sun went down that it became a little fresher. I have been through a lot in my life, but this was really something tough. My reading glasses melted, to illustrate how hot it was. I don't usually get scared, but this was abnormal."

And this is the reason Rino Hermans is looking back with pride for the work that everyone did. They managed to keep the fire at Daltra and prevent it from spreading to APEX and Arugas. □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 43 Leopard

1 Mist features

6 Basketball player

11 Deeply impressed

12 Higher than

13 Corrective action

15 Commercial

16 Gum mass

17 Verb for you

18 Some square dancers

20 Neptune's realm

21 Twisty fish

22 Witty remark

23 Meager

26 Accords

27 Possum of the comics

28 Arrest

29 Lifeboat need

30 Rejuvenation sites

34 Take advantage of

35 One, for Juan

36 In the past

37 Pedometer

40 Bother

41 Pollute

42 Vegas machines

## DOWN

1 Parish leader

2 Battery end

3 Brief rest

4 Possess

5 Share with followers

6 Deck makeup

7 Crunch targets

8 "You busy?"

9 Neighbor of K2

10 Parrots

14 Rank above viscount

19 Fallon's predecessor

22 Sticks with a needle

23 Husbands and wives

24 Like many resorts

25 Sign off on

26 Big dividends

28 Billionth: Prefix

30 Ventilation pipes

31 Cookout spot

32 Deal maker

33 Classifies

38 Light touch

39 Afternoon break

R	A	C	E	S		D	A	R	E	
E	V	E	N	T		I	T	E	M	S
G	I	L	D	A		R	E	S	I	N
A	L	E		R	A	G		I	N	A
L	A	B	O	R	L	E	A	D	E	R
			B	E	A		R	E	N	E
F	A	T	E	D		C	O	S	T	S
A	S	I	S		O	H	M			
C	H	E	E	R	L	E	A	D	E	R
T	A	G		O	D	E		E	M	U
O	M	A	H	A		T	A	C	O	S
R	E	M	U	S		A	G	A	T	E
	D	E	B	T		H	O	L	E	S

## Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				
13					14				
15				16			17		
18			19				20		
			21				22		
23	24	25				26			
27					28				
29				30			31	32	33
34				35			36		
37			38				39		
40						41			
42						43			

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

## CRYPTOQUOTE

H U J K I U J Q Q R K H K P G N

F J Q B G K S Z G X J N Q K B A G Q

P Z J H Q E H W W V J B Y Z G G V W N X B

— I J A A O H K K J X

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: AH, SEPTEMBER! YOU ARE THE DOORWAY TO THE SEASON THAT AWAKENS MY SOUL. — PEGGY TONEY HORTON

# OPEC+ makes small trim to world oil supplies as prices fall

By DAVID McHUGH

AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— OPEC and allied oil-producing countries, including Russia, made a small trim in their supplies to the global economy Monday, underlining their unhappiness as recession fears help drive down crude prices — along with the cost of gasoline, to drivers' delight.

The decision for October rolls back a mostly symbolic increase of 100,000 barrels per day in September. It follows a statement last month from Saudi Arabia's energy minister that the OPEC+ coalition could reduce output at any time. Oil producers such as Saudi Arabia have resisted calls from U.S. President Joe Biden to pump more oil to lower gasoline prices and the burden on consumers. OPEC+ has stuck with only cautious increases to make up for deep cuts made during the COVID-19 pandemic, which were finally restored in August.

Since then, growing worries about slumping future demand have helped send oil prices down from June peaks of over \$120 per barrel, cutting into the windfall for OPEC+ countries' coffers but proving a blessing for drivers in the U.S. as pump prices have eased.

The supply cut for October is only a small fraction of the 43.8 million barrels per day under OPEC+ production goals, but wrong-footed several analysts' predictions of no change in output. Oil prices jumped after the announcement. U.S. crude rose 3.3%, to \$89.79 per barrel, while international benchmark Brent was up 3.7%, to \$96.50, after the decision.

The amount of oil per day "may seem negligible, but the message from today's cut is clear: OPEC+ thinks they've fallen enough," Columbia University energy policy expert Jason Bordoff tweeted.

Oil prices have gyrated in recent months: Recession fears have pushed them down, while worries of a loss



The sun sets behind an idle pump jack near Karnes City, USA, April 8, 2020.

Associated Press

of Russian oil because of sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine pushed them up. Recently, recession fears have taken the upper hand. Economists in Europe are penciling in a recession at the end of this year due to skyrocketing inflation fed by energy costs, while China's severe restrictions aimed at halting the spread of the coronavirus have sapped growth in that major world economy. Those falling oil prices have been a boon to U.S. drivers, sending gasoline prices down to \$3.82 per gallon from record highs of over \$5 in June and offering a potential boost to Biden as his Democratic Party heads into midterm elections.

"The President has been clear that energy supply should meet demand to support economic growth and lower prices for American consumers and consumers around the world," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said. "President Biden is determined to continue to take every step necessary to shore up energy supplies and lower energy prices." In June, fears that U.S. and European sanctions would take Russian oil off the market helped push Brent to over \$123. Prices have fallen sharply in recent weeks as it became clear that Russia is still managing to sell significant amounts of oil in Asia, albeit at sharply discounted prices.

But concerns about the loss of Russian supply are still out

there because European sanctions aimed at blocking most Russian oil imports won't take effect until the end of the year.

Other factors are lurking that could influence the price of oil. For one, the Group of Seven wealthy democracies plan to impose a price cap on Russian oil aimed at battling high energy prices and reducing oil profits that Russia can use for its war in Ukraine.

That's if the cap works as intended. Russia could refuse to supply oil to countries and companies observing the cap, which would take barrels off the market. The price cap has not been set, and its influence on the global price remains unclear.

Meanwhile, a deal between Western countries and Iran to limit Tehran's nuclear program could ease sanctions and see more than 1 million barrels per day of Iranian oil return to the market in coming months. However, tensions between the U.S. and Iran appear to have risen in recent days: Iran seized two U.S. naval drones in the Red Sea, and U.S., Kuwaiti and Saudi warplanes flew over the Middle East on Sunday in a show of force.

OPEC+ countries' energy ministers said their September increase of 100,000 barrels a day was only for that month and that the group could meet again at any time to address market developments. □





Residents wade through flood water around their homes after heavy rain in Antananarivo, on Jan. 19, 2022.

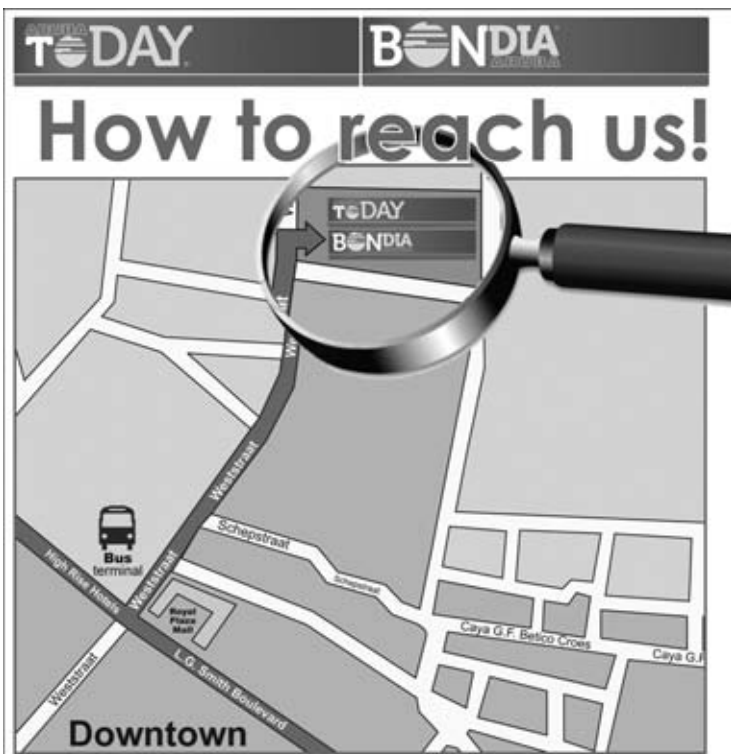
Associated Press

## As Africa's climate warms, rich countries pledge more funds

By WANJOHI KABUKURU  
Associated Press

**MOMBASA, Kenya (AP)** — Rich countries said they will spend about \$25 billion by 2025 to boost Africa's efforts to adapt to climate change as the continent continues to struggle with drought, cyclones and extreme heat, according to officials at a summit in Rotterdam in the Netherlands on Monday. The amount promised by the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program a joint initiative between various nations and organizations is billed as the largest ever adaptation effort globally. Half of the amount is pledged by the African Development Bank with representatives from Denmark, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, the International Monetary Fund and others

also offering their support for the initiative. The continent emits just 3% to 4% of emissions despite being home to nearly 17% of the world's population but experts say it is particularly vulnerable to climate change as it less able to adapt. African nations hope to use the funds to improve their resilience to extreme weather events, such as droughts or floods, increase tree cover and protect biodiversity, as well as expand their renewable energy capacity. The summit comes just weeks after the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development found that rich countries had failed to deliver on their 2009 promise to spend \$100 billion a year to aid developing countries to adapt to a warming climate. □



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## Brendan Fraser celebrated for comeback role in 'The Whale'

By LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

**VENICE, Italy (AP)** — Brendan Fraser is having a moment at the Venice International Film Festival.

The once ubiquitous movie star of "The Mummy" franchise and "George of the Jungle" had, in the last decade, backed away from the spotlight. But Fraser is charting what could be a major comeback starting with his transformative role in Darren Aronofsky's "The Whale," which had its world premiere Sunday night at the festival.

As the credits rolled in the Sala Grande theater, the audience gave the film a long standing ovation while Fraser, on the balcony alongside his director and co-stars, wiped tears away. Fraser plays Charlie, a reclusive English teacher with a kind soul who weighs 600 pounds (270 kilograms). While the film already has pundits predicting Oscar nominations, Fraser is trying not to think about whether awards are in his future.

"I'm just trying to stay in today," Fraser said before the premiere.

Aronofsky has been trying to make "The Whale" for about 10 years. He vividly remembers reading The New York Times review of Samuel D. Hunter's play, going out to see it, and knowing he had to meet the writer.

One line in particular stuck



Brendan Fraser poses for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'The Whale' during the 79th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Sunday, Sept. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

out to him: "People are incapable of not caring." It's why, he said, he had to make the film.

But casting presented a challenge.

"To a lot of Sam Hunter's pain, it took me 10 years to make this movie and that's because it took me 10 years to cast," Aronofsky said. "Casting Charlie was a huge challenge. I considered everyone. Every single movie star on the planet. ... It didn't move me. It didn't feel right."

Then, a few years ago, he saw a trailer for "a low-budget Brazilian movie" with Fraser and "a lightbulb went off," he said.

Fraser, who also has a role alongside Leonardo DiCaprio in Martin Scorsese's next film, "Killers of the Flower Moon," said he doesn't "know an actor in my peer group worth his weight in salt who wouldn't want to work with Darren."

Plus: "By far and away I think Charlie is the most heroic man I have ever played," Fraser added. "His superpower is to see the good in others and bring that out of them."

Prosthetics were used to transform Fraser into Charlie, who rarely leaves his couch.

"I needed to learn to absolutely move in a new way. I developed muscles I did

not know that I had. I even felt a sense of vertigo at the end of the day when all the appliances were removed, as you would feel stepping off of a boat in Venice," Fraser said. "It gave me an appreciation for those with bodies similar. ... I learned that you need to be an incredibly strong person, physically, mentally, to inhabit that body." Beyond his physicality, Charlie is also a character with profound empathy and love for everyone around him, including his estranged daughter, Ellie, played by "Stranger Things" star Sadie Sink.

"She's got a lot of things to say so she comes in hot.

But I think what she's not expecting is someone who cares so much about her," Sink said. "For someone like Charlie to see that there's good in someone like Ellie, it's throwing her for a loop." Hunter, who also wrote the screenplay, said his play is personal. He started it 12 years ago when he was teaching a mandatory expository writing course at Rutgers University that no one wanted to take and everyone resented. He also pulled from his own background, setting the play in his hometown of Moscow, Idaho, and weaving in his history of being depressed, self-medicating with food and going to a fundamentalist religious high school as a gay teenager.

"I was afraid to write it," he said. "I thought the only way I can do it is if I write it from a profoundly place of love and empathy. ... I wanted (Charlie) to be a lighthouse in the middle of a dark, dark sea."

"The Whale" was Aronofsky's favorite kind of challenge — in that it had so many limitations. He learned long ago on 1998's "Pi" that boundaries are "your gateway to freedom." On that film, he only had \$20,000 and a dream. In "Mother!" he was limited to a house. And, in "The Whale," it's not just a single apartment, it's also a character who doesn't move much. □



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Office, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Ben Stiller talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during their meeting in Kyiv, Ukraine, June 20, 2022.

Associated Press

## Russia sanctions 25 more Americans, including Penn, Stiller

Russia imposed personal sanctions Monday on 25 Americans, including actors Sean Penn and Ben Stiller, in response to U.S. sanctions against Russians stemming from the conflict in Ukraine.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo was on the new sanctions list, as were several American senators: Mark Kelly and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, Kevin Cramer of North Dakota, Mike Rounds of South

Dakota, Rick Scott of Florida, and Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said the group, which also included business leaders, academics and government officials, would be banned permanently from entering Russia.

Previous rounds of Russian sanctions against Americans have included President Joe Biden and members of his family, as well as lawmakers and business

leaders.

The U.S. has sanctioned numerous Russians, including government officials and business people.

Penn and Stiller have been outspoken critics of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Penn is an activist involved in relief work, among other causes.

Stiller is a goodwill ambassador for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. □



## Andy Ruiz beats Ortiz by decision in heavyweight showdown

By **GREG BEACHAM**

AP Sports Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Andy Ruiz landed just enough big punches on Luis Ortiz to make up for his mistakes and caution in a narrow victory that kept him on the path to a chance to become the heavyweight champion again.

Ruiz knocked down Ortiz three times on the way to a victory by unanimous decision Sunday night.

Former three-division world champion Abner Mares also fought to a majority draw with Miguel Flores in Mares' return from a four-year ring absence on the pay-per-view undercard. Lightweight Isaac "Pitbull" Cruz then stopped Eduardo Ramirez in the second round with two vicious knockdowns.

In the main event, Ruiz (35-2, 22 KOs) grinded out a decision over Ortiz (33-3), a two-time world title challenger. The Southern California native knocked down the 43-year-old Ortiz twice in the second round and again in the seventh, but his Cuban opponent battled through a badly swollen left eye and punched more accurately during long stretches of relative inactivity for both fighters.

"I worked so hard for this fight, because I knew he's a warrior and he hits hard,"



Andy Ruiz, Jr., right, fights Luis Ortiz in a WBC world heavyweight title eliminator boxing match, Sunday, Sept. 4, 2022, in Los Angeles.

Ruiz said. "I thought I did a beautiful job boxing him around and handling his pressure."

The judges scored the bout 114-111, 114-111 and 113-112 for Ruiz. The Associated Press also had Ruiz 114-111, with the knockdowns making the difference.

Ruiz pulled off one of the bigger upsets in recent heavyweight history when he took Anthony Joshua's three championship belts in 2019, only to lose them back to his British opponent six months later. Ruiz had fought just once since, but he rededicated himself to

training with hopes of getting another shot at the belts.

"I do not want to be waiting," Ruiz said. "I want to fight at least three or four times a year. I'm hungry, man. I want to be a champion again."

After entering the ring in a blue-and-gold robe and trunks featuring the Super Bowl champion Los Angeles Rams' colors and helmet horns, Ruiz abruptly floored Ortiz early in the second round with a short right hand. Ortiz wobbled to his feet and soon slipped back down while trying to clinch

with Ruiz, but he made it to the bell.

"To everyone who said that I'm old, I gave you a war today," Ortiz said. "I would want a rematch. The eye wasn't a problem for me. Do you think I'm done after the way I fought? Do the people think I'm done? I don't think so."

Neither fighter threw much or risked much in the next four rounds, and the crowd that loudly backed Ruiz grumbled its displeasure. But Ruiz connected again late in the seventh, staggering Ortiz before sending him to the canvas with a

right to the top of the head. "It was very difficult," Ruiz said.

"I was waiting for him to load up, and countering him when he did. It was a blessing we were able to be successful."

Earlier, Cruz (24-2-1, 17 KOs) made his case for a rematch with Gervonta "Tank" Davis with his two-round demolition of Ramirez, first knocking him down face-first with a left hook to the jaw before finishing him with a combination in the corner.

Davis, who narrowly beat Cruz by decision last December, smiled as he watched the bout from ringside amid chants of: "We want Tank!" from Cruz's fans.

Mares (31-3-2) hadn't fought since his second loss to Leo Santa Cruz in June 2018. He recovered from surgery on a detached retina shortly before the start of the coronavirus pandemic, and his ring absence stretched on while he landed a commentary job with Showtime.

But Mares eventually decided he had to return, and he looked quite sharp early against Flores (25-4-1) with a series of big right hands that rocked his opponent. Mares tired in the second half, but won 96-94 on one judge's card. The other two scored it 95-95. □

Associated Press

## Harbaugh hopes players get a revenue share from 12-team CFP

By **LARRY LAGE**

AP Sports Writer

**ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP)** — Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh hopes players get a cut of the money generated by an expanded College Football Playoff.

"I do believe the players should receive a revenue share from the massive TV deals that have been worked out," Harbaugh said Monday at his weekly news conference before the eighth-ranked Wolverines host Hawaii.

The plan to expand the CFP from four teams was approved Friday, and the

new-look tournament will begin as soon as 2024 and as late as 2026.

An 11-game championship bracket could be worth as much as \$2 billion in media rights to the conferences that play major college football, starting in 2026. If the new format begins before the current 12-year contract with ESPN expires, the conferences could make an additional \$450 million over the final two years. The current deal that ends after the 2025 season pays about \$470 million per year. CFP Executive Director Bill Hancock said ESPN

would get the first bid on any new playoff inventory added in 2024 and 2025. After 2025, there is no TV contract for a playoff. The plan is to take the new format to the open market and possibly involve multiple TV partners instead of just ESPN. In the new playoff format, six of the highest-ranked conference champions and six at-large, selection-committee selections will earn a spot. The top four seeds would be conference champions, receiving byes into the second round. First-round games would be played on campuses and



Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh congratulates his players after a touchdown during the second half of an NCAA college football game against Colorado State, Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022, in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Associated Press

the rest at bowl sites.

The CFP management committee, which includes conference commissioners and Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick, are scheduled to meet

Thursday in Dallas. Dates of games, host sites, available television windows and the impact on the regular-season schedule are among the topics they are expected to discuss. □



# NASCAR's wild regular season rolls over into playoffs

By PETE IACOBELLI

AP Sports Writer

DARLINGTON, S.C. (AP) —

Buckle up your five-point harness. Looks like NASCAR's playoffs will be just as wild and unpredictable as its regular season.

That came into sharp focus at Darlington Raceway where Erik Jones became the first-ever non-playoff racer to take the postseason opener in the Southern 500 on Sunday night — one week after the cutoff for playoff qualifying.

Jones' crew chief, Dave Elenz, was gratified his team finally broke through at one of the most difficult tracks in NASCAR. "But I think the first thing Erik said to me is, 'Don't you wish we won Daytona'" in the regular-season finale, Elenz said.



Erik Jones competes in the NASCAR Southern 500 auto race Sunday, Sept. 4, 2022, in Darlington, S.C.

Associated Press

At the end, Jones outlasted all three of his old Joe Gibbs Racing teammates — Martin Truex Jr., Kyle Busch and Denny Hamlin. Truex lost a late lead with power steering problems, Busch's engine blew up with Jones in

second. Hamlin reached Jones' back bumper on the last lap but couldn't pass him.

"It was crazy. I've never had anything like that happen," Jones said.

Truex, like Jones, didn't

qualify for the playoff. Busch and Hamlin are vying for the title.

Earlier in the night, playoff favorites Chase Elliott and Kyle Larson of powerhouse Hendrick Motorsports struggled.

Elliott bounced off the wall as he spun by himself in the first 100 laps, damaging his suspension, which his team could not repair. Top-seeded coming in, Elliott was out of the race and fell to ninth in playoff points.

Larson, the defending NASCAR Cup Series champion who is seeded fourth this year, had early engine problems and fell four laps off the pace. Larson steadily rebounded to get back on the lead lap and end 12th — not what was expected out of the 2021's most dominant driver.

"So, pretty bummed about it, but also happy at the same time because I thought we were going to have another DNF," said Larson, who fell to seventh in the point standings with two more races at Kansas and Bristol before four of the 16 playoff teams are eliminated.

Busch, faced with questions about his racing future much of the summer, looked he'd have a moment of celebration as he led the race with less than 40 laps remaining. Then his failing engine sent him to the garage.

The race's least surprising result? Continued driver anger over what they see as an unreliable, unsafe Next Gen car. The loudest voice Sunday came from Kevin Harvick, the 2014

series champ whose car caught fire and had flames coming through the dashboard.

Harvick parked the car on the grass and scrambled away to safety. He did not return. Moments later, J.J. Yeley's machine caught fire under the hood and he, too, had to get out quick.

Drivers have said the hits this year feel harder, something NASCAR's analytics back up. Kurt Busch gave up his playoff spot due to his continuing recovery from a concussion suffered in a crash at Pocono.

"I'm sure it's just crappy parts on the race car like we've seen so many times," Harvick said. "They haven't fixed anything. It's kind of like the safety stuff. We just let it keep going and keep going."

Harvick fell from ninth in the playoffs coming in to 16th and is on the brink of elimination if things don't improve the next two weeks. Darlington brought a quick and surprising shuffle to the playoffs, which are unique among sports because those who aren't racing for a title still get to race for victories. Imagine if the NL's top-seeded Los Angeles Dodgers lost to the Florida Marlins, who didn't make the playoffs. That's what happened at Darlington as Jones won his third NASCAR race and second Southern 500.

Jones, who drives for Petty GMS, was the 17th racer to win in 27 races this season, closing in on the most ever in NASCAR, which was 19 different winners in 2001.

Jones also gave the history-filled No. 43 car, made famous by NASCAR Hall of Famer Richard Petty, its 200th win.

Joey Logano, fourth at Darlington, moved into the points lead with William Byron second, Hamlin third and Christopher Bell fourth. Joining Harvick on the bubble as the first four out were first-time playoff participants in Austin Cindric and Chase Briscoe, and Austin Dillon, who pulled off a win-and-in at Daytona a week earlier just to make playoff field. □

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